

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 2977

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN EGEN PL US
SUBJ: POLISH RESPONSE TO USG REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC
INFORMATION

REF: (A) WARSAW 1739, (B) STATE 030901

1. ON APRIL 8 AN EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON BOGDAN KOSINSKI, ADVISER TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, WHO IS COORDINATING THE MINISTRY'S REPLY TO OUR REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION (REF B).

2. KOSINSKI SAID A NOTE REPLYING TO OUR QUESTIONS HAD BEEN PREPARED BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY, BUT IT HAD NOT GAINED THE CLEARANCE OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE MINISTRY HAD BROKEN DOWN ALL PROJECTIONS FOR POLAND'S BALANCE OF PYAMENTS THROUGH 1983 ACCORDING TO THE MERCHANDISE AND SERVICE ACCOUNT BY COUNTRY, BUT THAT REVISIONS OVER THE LAST MONTH IN THE POLISH GOVERNMENT'S FIVE-YEAR PLANS REQUIRED CHANGES IN THESE ESTIMATES. HE SAID THE NECESSARY CORRECTIONS HAD BEEN MADE AND THAT WE WOULD RECEIVE A REPLY "WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS".

3. KOSINSKI APOLOGIZED FOR THE DELAY IN RESPONDING TO
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PAGE 02 WARSAW 02977 110725Z

OUR REQUEST. HE SAID THE MINISTRY REGARDED SUCH EX-CHANGE OF INFORMATION AS "POSITIVE, ESSENTIAL AND PURPOSEFUL." HE AGREED IT WAS NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THE ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE CREATED BY MINISTER KISIEL'S VISIT IN DECEMBER, 1977. THE GOP'S WRITTEN RESPONSE SHOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY CONSULTATIONS, HE SAID, AND SUCH EXCHANGES WOULD

MATURALLY BE AN ON-GOING PORCESS.

4. WE TOLD KOSINSKI WE WOULD WELCOME THE MINISTRY'S SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THESE CONSULTATIONS MIGHT BEST BE CARRIED OUT. WE DID NOT WISH TO CREATE A RIGID PROCEDURE BUT FORESAW THE NEED FOR PERIODIC MEETINGS. KOSINSKI SAID HE WOULD ALWAYS BE WILLING TO MEET WITH US, BUT THAT VICE MINISTER KRZAK MIGHT NEED TO RESPOND TO SOME QUESTIONS. WE ASKED WHETHER KRZAK OR ANOTHER FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN THE MAY 15-16 MEETINGS OF THE US-POLISH ECONOMIC COUNCIL IN WASHINGTON AND SUGGESTED THAT, IF SO, SEPARATE CONSULTATIONS MIGHT BE ARRANGED AT THAT TIME. WE SAID THAT, IN ANY EVENT, LATE APRIL OR MAY SEEMED TO US TO BE A GOOD PERIOD TO ARRANGE SUCH TALKS.

5. WE ALSO TOLD KOSINSKI THAT, IF ADDITIONAL REVISIONS IN THE PLAN MIGHT DELAY THE POLISH RESPONSE EVEN FURTHER, THE NEXT ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS MIGHT DEAL USEFULLY WITH GOP METHODOLOGY AND DATA PRESENTED THROUGH THE END OF 1977. HE AGREED BUT SAID THE 1978-83 PROJECTIONS COULD ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO US WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

6. COMMENT: THIS WAS THE EMBASSY'S FIRST MEETING WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 WARSAW 02977 110725Z

KOSINSKI. HIS OVERALL APPROACH WAS POSITIVE AND FORTHCOMING AND HE SHOWED NO SIGNS OF DEFENSIVENESS OR SENSITIVITY AS HAS BEEN THE CASE WITH SOME POLISH OFFICIALS WHEN WE HAVE RAISED THIS SUBJECT OVER THE PAST YEAR. BASED ON HIS RESPONSE, WE ARE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT WE SHALL SEE SOME PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE BY MID-SUMMER. END COMMENT.
SCHAUFEELE

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